

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Food Situation in the Soviet Zone

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25X1A () Comment: The information contradicts previous reports on the same subject to a considerable degree and it is yet to be seen whether the plans and estimates quoted herein will actually be realized.)

1. Food Supplies for the Period from 1 October 1948 to 30 March 1949.

- a. Enough food will be on hand for the above period to issue all individual rations (except those for meat) according to plan to the whole population of the Soviet zone and the Soviet sector of Berlin. This statement is based on the amount of deliveries so far received from farmers as well as on estimates of German and Russian specialists.
- b. A small gap still exists in regard to fat supplies, but this too is to be closed by the import of 10,000 tons of oil and lard from Russia. Shipments of these items are arriving continuously and 4,300 tons have been received to date. Up to now, the quota of fat has been replaced by sugar.
- c. Meat rations will be sufficient for three and a half months only. For the remainder of the period, other food has to be substituted; for two months there will be fish only, while for the remaining half month there will be cottage cheese, 25X1 skimmed milk cheese, and eggs, depending on local conditions. It is contemplated to import 20,000 tons of fresh fish and herring during each quarter.

However, it is still questionable whether meat supplies and substitutes will be delivered according to schedule. There is already a shortage amounting to 25 days of rations for the current quarter. This condition has been alleviated by drawing on supplies intended for the next quarter. Nevertheless, there still exists uncertainty whether or not fish ordered from Poland will actually be delivered, and it is therefore doubtful whether the meat quota for the next quarter will be met. The shipment from

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Poland has arrived, but it consisted partly of spoiled dried fish that came from former German army supplies. The SMA refused to accept this shipment.

- d. Plans for the period mentioned call for the export of 30,000 tons of sugar and 60,000 tons of wheat. Food requirements of the Russians are planned to be met with 15,000 tons of meat, 3,000 tons of butter, and 40,000 tons of sugar. The sugar deliveries will also include reparations.

- e. For the fourth quarter of 1948, the following is to be produced and to be sold unrationed to the population:

Cigarettes made of Bulgarian tobacco -- 300 million; to be sold at a price of DM 0.80 apiece.

Beer (12% alcohol) -- 400,000 hectolitres, consumer's price to be DM 6.00 a litre.

Liqueur -- 40,000 hectolitres.

Schnapps -- 90,000 hectolitres. (Both liqueur and Schnapps are to be sold at the current rate.)

- f. No production of cigarettes is contemplated for the first quarter of 1949, while the production of beer, Schnapps, and liqueur will depend on the demand for these items. It is presumed that the production of the fourth quarter of 1948 will not find sufficient buyers.

2. Food Supplies for the Period from 1 April to 30 September 1949.

- a. There will be enough food available for above period to maintain the same ration quotas that have been established for the present.
- b. Fats and meats are an exception. It is estimated that there will be no meat for three months out of six, while no fat will be available for four ten-day ration periods. German authorities suggest replacing meat with imported fish for two months and for the remaining month with an additional issue of sugar, cheese, eggs, and cottage cheese. Fat is to be replaced by sugar and cereals (Nährmittel). The SMA has not yet commented on these German suggestions.

3. Plans set up for the two half-year periods mentioned call for the complete exhaustion of all available food supplies. With the exception of sugar, there will be nothing left for reserve. Depending on harvesting results, a special additional ration of five kilograms of potatoes may be issued to each person in the ration period of March-April 1949.
4. In all these plans the western sectors of Berlin were excluded. This was done with the special consent of the SMA. Should it become necessary to supply the western sectors as well, then rations in the zone would have to be reduced even if neither wheat nor sugar were exported. Nevertheless, the SMA has given orders to print food ration cards for the population of the western sectors each month. The Soviet occupation forces will live entirely off the land.
5. In line with the two-year project, preliminary plans have also been drawn up for the period 1 October 1949 to 30 September 1950.
- a. For that planning period, the DEK (German Economic Commission) has established the following daily rations per person, which amount to 2,463 calories:

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Fat - 37 grams, of which 12 grams shall be butter,
16 grams margarine, 6 grams oil, and 3 grams
not specified
Meat - 27 grams
Bread - 530 grams
Sugar - 100 grams
Potatoes - 600 grams

In order to assure such rations, it will be necessary to import 20,000 tons of cattle; 4,200 tons of butter; 100,000 tons of oil or 300,000 tons of oil seeds; and 1,500,000 tons of grain. In addition, the sugar production would have to amount to 750,000 tons per year, of which none could be exported. On the other hand, the expected production for the year 1948/49 is only 580,000 tons.

- b. For the same period the following is to be set aside for consumption by the Russian occupation forces:

Meat - 25,000 tons
Butter - 5,000 tons
Sugar - 80,000 tons (including reparations)

6. By order of the SMA, farmers will have to concentrate mainly on root crops and oil seeds in 1949; imports of cheaper types of grain are to be increased.
7. Concerning the food situation even SED officials are pessimistic and doubt that the two-year plan will be fulfilled.

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